Government of India and persuade the latter to treat these balance sheets as permanent records. But in case the Department does not agree to do this, it may be persuaded to instruct the Registrars of Companies in various States to transfer these balance sheets to the State Records Offices or to the National Archives of India.

Standing Committee's views:

The balance sheets and other annual returns filed by the various Companies with the Registrars of Companies should, as a matter of course, be preserved for future use. However, keeping in view of the large bulk of such documents, it would be desirable to appraise them and those containing really useful information be separated for permanent preservation. The National Archives of India has already taken up the collection of data pertaining to all the non-current and semi-current records of all the Central Departments including the autonomous bodies and Corporations. the Registrars of Companies, The rules governing the retention periods of their records will have to be studied in order to ensure that records worth permanent preservation are not destroyed indiscriminately. The same should apply to the records of the Nationalized Banks in India.

G. Creation of Intermediate Record Centres

(17) Resolution by Prof. Amba Prasad

"Resolved that, keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters

and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of Intermediate Record Centres, on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Record Centres should be fully manned with qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts etc. in their possession".

Standing Committee's views:

There can be little doubt that such Record Centres are essential for proper management of the non-current and semi-current records of the Central and State Government offices located away from the capitals. These Centres might also contain the repair and reprography facilities to cater to the needs of manuscript repositories, private record holdings, libraries, etc., in the various regions. The same Centres would undertake the survey, listing and salvaging of private records in their respective regions. Setting up of such Record Centres is already visualised as an important element of archival development in the 5th Five-Year Plan, though it is realised that the problem has tremendous bulk and complexities, and would require sustained and major effort over several Five-Year Plans. In the case of States which have already set up Regional Centres in accordance with Resolution No. XIV of the 41st Session of the Commission, these Centres could be expanded and used for the above purposes.